



QUARTERLY

THE MILWAUKEE JUSTICE CENTER

Vol. 3, No. 3, Summer 2014



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THE MILWAUKEE JUSTICE CENTER
Milwaukee County Courthouse
901 North 9th Street, Rm. G9
Milwaukee, WI 53233

Editor:
Justin A. Metzger
justin.metzger@wicourts.gov

What's New, Summer 2014

By: Omar Mallick

Fall is falling and the Milwaukee Justice Center (MJC) is in full swing in our new location. I am happy to say that our staff and clientele have acclimated very well in the new space, taking full advantage of what the more expansive room has to offer. Something new and exciting we are offering is specifically targeted to the children that pay us a visit. The MJC initiated a book drive for kids, asking people in the courthouse and community to donate any

books they may no longer need.

There was a great response and now, not only do the children get to read the book while they are waiting, they can take it home and enjoy it later.

This not only helps them stay engaged while at the MJC, but excited to be leaving with a little gift of their choosing. One more way of trying to make our clients leave feeling happy, coupled with the generosity of others. ●



Atty. Omar Mallick
MJC Attorney Supervisor

MJC Congratulates *Pro Bono Publico* Award Winners

By: Mary Ferwerda

The MJC is proud to congratulate the volunteer attorneys from Michael Best & Friedrich LLP and Marquette Law Student Britteny LaFond, both recipients of the Milwaukee Bar Association's annual *Pro Bono Publico* awards to be presented at the State of the Court Luncheon on October 22, 2014.

Michael Best & Friedrich have been a long-standing partner of the MJC, regularly staffing one Friday per month with outstanding volunteer attorneys. Additionally, through Michael Best partner, Ed Sarskas, the firm has staffed the Mobile Legal Clinic, providing volunteers one Saturday per month at sites across Milwaukee County.

MICHAEL BEST
& FRIEDRICH LLP

Winners Michael Best & Friedrich, Britteny LaFond



Britteny LaFond has committed her law school career to gaining experience in a variety of public interest fields, including serving as the MJC Law Student Volunteer Coordinator for the last two years. Britteny is a strong leader with a deep commitment to serving those who are unable to afford legal representation. She has been involved in numerous pro bono projects, and is currently participating in the Public Defender's year-long clinic. Britteny is also one of two recipients of the Association of Women Lawyers Foundation Scholarship award for 2013-2014.

Congratulations on these well-deserved honors! Thank you for your service to the MJC! ●



Rededication Marks New Era for Milwaukee Justice Center

By: Justin A. Metzger



Photos Courtesy: Tom Caldart

Below: (Clockwise from top left) Clerk of Court John Barrett, Chief Judge Jeffrey Kremers, Chief Judge (Ret.) Michael Skwierawski, Atty. Fran Deisinger, Dean Matthew Parlow

“An amazing collaboration” is how Milwaukee County Circuit Court Chief Judge Jeffrey Kremers characterized the partnership among the Milwaukee Bar Association, the MBA Foundation, Marquette University Law School, and Milwaukee County that resulted in the Milwaukee Justice Center. Kremers described the new facility as a “one-stop shop for unrepresented and under-represented litigants.”

Numerous members of the judiciary, including Supreme Court Justice Annette Ziegler, attended the lunchtime ceremony emceed by Clerk of Court John Barrett.

Former Chief Judge Michael Skwierawski, who was the driving force behind the MJC from the earliest planning stages, declared that the MJC has already succeeded “beyond the wildest dreams” of those

who first imagined it. With the assistance of five major Milwaukee law firms staffing clinics, and 120 lawyers who regularly volunteer, the MJC has helped over 10,000 clients in each of the past two years. Judge Skwierawski noted that 83% of those helped had incomes below the federal poverty

the thousands of hours of volunteer work MBA members have devoted to the project.

Professor Matthew Parlow, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at the law school, summed up the MJC’s mission as “important work that furthers human dignity.” He also spoke to



level, saying the MJC is “reaching its target.”

MBA Foundation president Francis Deisinger, noted that over 500 MBA members have made almost half a million dollars in charitable contributions to the MJC, not to mention

the immeasurable benefit to law students.

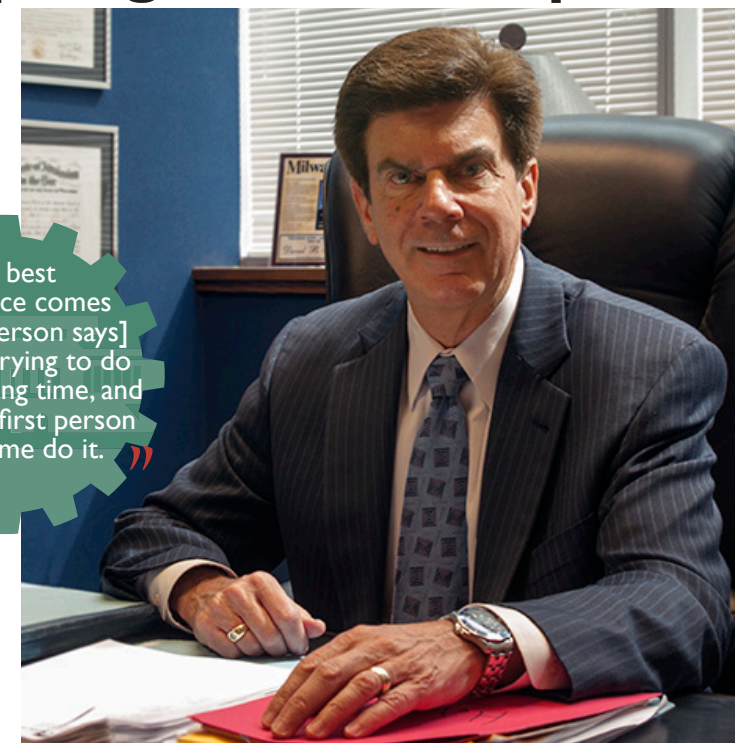
The MJC’s expanded quarters can now accommodate up to 14 clients at a time. A supervised children’s play area adjacent to the waiting area is in the works. ●

Volunteer Spotlight: David Karp

By: Justin A. Metzger

David Karp has been in practice in Milwaukee since graduating from Marquette Law School in 1982. He’s also been no stranger to *pro bono* and other public service causes since that time. He’s served with Women *Pro Se*, Legal Action of Wisconsin, and, of course, here at the Milwaukee Justice Center.

The best experience comes when a [person says] ‘I’ve been trying to do this for a long time, and you’re the first person to help me do it.’”



Atty. David Karp, Karp Law Offices, SC

What brought you to the Milwaukee Justice Center?

I originally learned about the MJC from attorney Gregg Herman (Loeb & Herman, SC). When the Leander J. Foley, Jr. Matrimonial Inn of Court went looking for a community project, the chapter devoted itself to having its members volunteer for the MJC. We are in our second year having the MJC as our continuing community project.

You’ve championed the MJC Family Law Advice Clinics more than anyone. What’s been your motivation in doing so?

It is a privilege and honor to be an attorney. We are in a position of trust with the public; what better way to give back to the public than helping people who are limited financially who need legal help, but cannot afford an attorney? Family law is a highly specialized

area in the law, and after practicing for over 32 years, it is a real privilege to help people through the MJC who need help in the area of family law.

What’s been your most rewarding experience at the MJC?

There have been many cases that come to mind, but the best experience comes when an individual who needs help says, ‘thank you, I’ve been trying to do this for a long time and you are the first person to help me do it.’

What else should we know about you?

I have lived and breathed music for most of my life; it was always a dream to be a professional musician, but it

is a tough life and you need special luck to make it as a musician.

I still get to use my musical skills by playing in a local band; we are unique in that we play events gratuitously to help raise money for local and national charities. The name of the group is The Mission River Band. 2015 represents our 10th year together.

We have helped raise over \$500,000 for Make-A-Wish, Guitars 4 Vets, Special Olympics, After Breast Cancer Diagnosis, and even the Milwaukee Justice Center. The group consists of various professional individuals who all live in Mequon, and includes one other lawyer, who is also a volunteer for the MJC, attorney Bernard “Bud” Bobber (Foley & Lardner, LLP). ●

Q2 2014 By the Numbers

By: Justin A. Metzger

Though the MJC’s final months ended on a small downtick, the future is looking up as the clinic has moved into new space, more than doubling capacity.

The Milwaukee Justice Center helped 2,646 people in April, May, and June of this year, 3.3% less than we did in 2013. However, that is still 16% more than the MJC’s historical average, going back to 2009.

That puts us at an 6.7% loss year-to-date versus 2013. With the new clinic, and it’s expanded capacity, we’re expecting a turnaround starting in July. The old space on the fifth floor had a capacity of 6, while the new clinic can help up to 14 at a time. ●

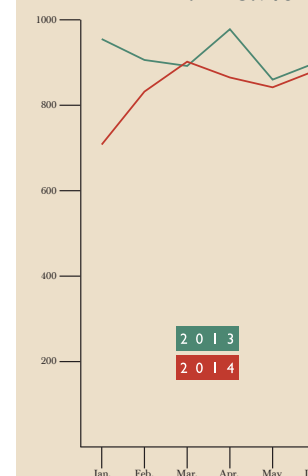
Q2 2014 a Glance...

Clients Seen

Q2 2014: 2646

vs. 2013: -3.3%

YTD: -6.7%





MJC Hires New Front Woman! Meet Samantha Yee

By: Justin A. Metzger

Samantha Yee is another success story of a Milwaukee Justice Center volunteer becoming a member of the staff.

Originally from the northwest Chicago suburb of Niles, "Sam" was an English major at Marquette, focusing on writing-intensive English (developing arguments, writing for professionals, and even writing a children's book), and a Spanish minor graduating this past May.

"I loved to read as a child, and then I realized writing is something I also like to do," Sam said. "I've always been creative, but writing was the best, and it let me engage on a deeper level with literature."

During Sam's freshman year, she was a member of Marquette's Pre-Law Society, where the volunteer opportunity at the MJC was first mentioned to her.

"I wanted to be an attorney my freshman year in college," Sam said. "I thought I would be great at

it, and at the MJC, I would get some great exposure, and it would be a great opportunity to do good."

Sam then became an administrative intern, and the rest is history. Her interest in public service has grown, having also volunteered time with Habitat for Humanity.

"I think the MJC is a combination of all the great things I'm interested in right now."

In addition to her interests in writing, reading, and public service, she's also very interested in the Milwaukee food scene, and the city itself.

"I bike, I like to eat, I like to make food for other people, I like to help people, and I just really care about the communities I'm involved in." ●



Family Law Clinic Hours:

Monday - Wednesday
8:30am - 12:00pm
1:00pm - 4:00pm

Thursday - Friday
8:30am - 12:00pm

Brief Legal Advice Clinic Hours:

Thursday - Friday
2:00pm - 4:00pm

Family Legal Advice Clinic Hours:

Monday - Wednesday
1:30pm - 3:30pm

MJC Executive Director:

Dawn R. Caldart, J.D.

Legal Director

Mary Ferwerda, M.S., J.D.

Attorney Supervisor

Omar Mallick, J.D.

Clerical Specialist:

Samantha Yee

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Thank you to all of our
volunteers and supporters!

ALL CLINICS NOW LOCATED IN **Rm. G-9**

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